



### **MARIA GUZMAN**

When the Covid-19 pandemic emerged in full force in March of 2020, Maria Guzman, the Director of CT Safe Connect for the Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence, worked quickly to shift the 26 domestic violence advocates to a remote status while continuing to ensure the full-scope of 24/7 responses to victims of domestic violence in the state. Maria led a team of advocates at CCADV to adjust the CT Safe Connect platform so that advocates could safely respond to victims while also staying safe themselves. They developed innovative approaches to communicating confidentially with one-another and continued to work around the clock to support victims – primarily women - at critical times. Outreach to CT Safe Connect increased by 30% during the pandemic. Maria and her team also worked quickly to support Governor Lamont’s Executive Order allowing for online restraining order applications by training a core group of advocates to manage online applications for victims so that they could safely apply for an order without having to go to court during Covid-19 shut down orders.